

## The Partnership to End Homelessness: A Hot Meal on a Cold Night in Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



On January 17, 2011, AmeriCorps members from the Partnership to End Homelessness offered a tasty, hot meal at the Central Branch Library on Church St. The members specifically chose to serve a Saturday evening meal because no one else in town was offering a meal at that time. They didn't



want anyone who was hungry to have to go to bed still hungry. The library was chosen because it is a popular hangout for our homeless friends. They can spend time there, reading the books or using the computers, and be out of the weather.

The members cooked the chili themselves. They met at 1 pm to brown meat and chop onions and had the completed chili in the oven by 3:30. They made enough chili that we put the extra in the freezer to serve another meal next month. They prearranged with the Salvation Army to use their Disaster Relief Vehicle to act as the service kitchen and Deb Fisher, from the Night Watch group, volunteered to operate the vehicle for us. They gave them each person who wanted chili a heaping bowl of soup, bread, lemonade, and dessert. In total, we served 78 portions of chili. Many of the folks came back for seconds and thirds. By some reckoning, there may not have been a lot of people being served, but the people who were there were truly grateful for the unexpected meal. One woman told me *thank you* with



tears in her eyes. She said she didn't know what she was going to eat that night, and then here we were.

